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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Application of:

: Confirmation No.: 8048 **JAN 8 1 2003**

Varner et al.

: Group Art Unit: **GROUP 3600**

Serial No.: 09/771,431

: Examiner: Novosad, C. J.

Filed: January 26, 2001

For: DISPLAY FORM HAVING  
MAGNETICALLY ATTACHABLE  
PARTS

|  |                                   |
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| CERTIFICATE OF MAILING   |                                   |
| I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 EV 250 906 257 US |                                   |
| On <u>1/22/03</u>  | <u>Kay Speaker</u><br>Kay Speaker |

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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**JAN 28 2003**

Sir:

TECHNOLOGY CENTER RJ/UC

Further to the Information Disclosure Statement filed March 27, 2001, the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the additional references, copies enclosed, which may qualify as prior art. For the Examiner's convenience, the references are listed on the attached Patent and Trademark Office Form PTO-1449.

The attached form PTO-1449 lists four patents which are not in the English language. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)3(i), a concise explanation of the relevance of these four patents follows.

DE 1027473 is believed to be of the same patent family and substantially similar to FR 1172805. FR 1172805 discloses ball joints employing permanent magnets. The ball (bille) is of ferromagnetic material (claim 1). The permanent magnets are annular and are used with annular pole pieces (claim 1). Figures 1-7 show a variety of pole-piece configurations.

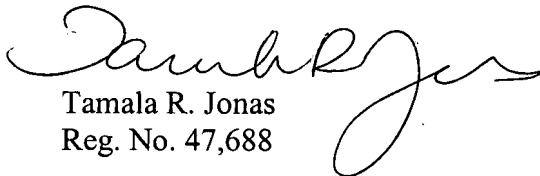
DE 1032613 discloses ball joints employing permanent magnets. The ball (Kugel) is of ferromagnetic material (col. 1, line 6). Two pole pieces of soft iron are used with the permanent magnet (claim 1). Figures 1-5 show a variety of pole piece configurations.

French patent 1,101,502 relates to a mannequin with magnetic joints. Each joint is provided with a magnetic element on one side and a ferrous element on the other. As shown in Figures 1 and 2, each joint is formed of a spherical ball-like structure ("rotule") (e.g. 3, 7, 9, 11, 12, 15, 19) and a spherical socket-like structure ("siège") (e.g. 4) into which the spherical ball-like structure seats. Cylindrical, planar, conical or other similar joining surfaces are also disclosed. The socket-like structure may be provided with one or more magnets, which may be permanent magnets, or may be made of ferrous material. Similarly, the ball-like structure may be made of ferrous material or may be provided with one or more magnets. Figure 1 shows joints at the neck, shoulder, elbow, wrist, waist, hip, knee, and ankle.

FR 1266884 discloses ball joints employing permanent magnets. The ball (rotule) is made of ferromagnetic material (page 1, col. 1, line 3). At least one pole piece is used with the permanent magnet (claim 1). An air gap is maintained between the permanent magnet and the ball (claim 1). As shown in Figures 1 and 4, an air gap may also be maintained between the pole piece(s) and the ball. Figures 1-4 show a variety of pole piece configurations, including a magnet in a cup (Fig. 1). The patent states that the two embodiments shown in Figs. 1-2 are relatively tall, which in certain cases may be irrational (page 2, column 2, ca. lines 41-43).

It is believed that a fee of \$180 is due with this submission and a check for that amount is enclosed. If this is incorrect, however, please credit any overpayment or deduct any deficiency from deposit account 07-1969.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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